

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant seeks reconsideration of the application. In this response, no claims are canceled, no claims are added, and Claims 1, 16 and 18 are amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-18 are pending.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 1, 16 and 18 would be allowable if amended to explicitly claim "at least one casing individually linked to one and only one track." In this response, Applicant amends Claims 1, 16 and 18 as suggested by the Examiner. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 16 and 18 and dependent Claims 2-15 and 17 are allowable.

II. Applicant's Comments regarding Harvey Reference

In the Office Actions, the Examiner asserts that "[t]he Harvey reference discloses that '[u]sually a sensor group will contain one to thirty geophones electrically interconnected to form a single data channel'", citing column 1, lines 12-14 of Harvey. The Examiner further asserts that "if Harvey were to use a single geophone, as is a suggested possibility, the Harvey reference will meet the applicant's claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees and incorporates by reference the arguments submitted in connection with the response to the previous Office Action. Specifically, Applicant notes that this passage (column 1, lines 12-14 of Harvey) referred to by the Examiner is extracted from the background section of the Harvey reference which merely describes conventional seismic exploration systems existing before the Harvey system. Accordingly, the passage (column 1, lines 12-14 of Harvey) referred by the Examiner should not be considered as part of or combined with the "Harvey's multitrack system". In the Harvey's multitrack system, each casing 132 is systematically associated with several tracks 138 (See for example figure 7 of Harvey). Applicant respectfully submits that there is no suggestion or motivation in Harvey to convert the multitrack system shown in figure 7 into the system corresponding to the invention by linking only one geophone to each remote unit 132, as asserted by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a phone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: March 19, 2004

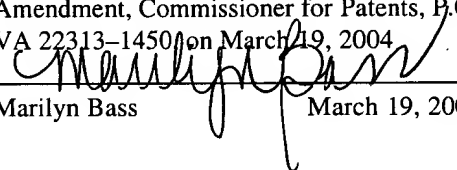


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Marilyn Bass

March 19, 2004